

### Marylín Schwartz, Class of 1959

It seems that Marylín Schwartz knew during high school what career she wanted to pursue. She wrote for the school's paper, *The Hi-Times*, and earned a place in *Quill and Scroll*, the journalism honor society, her junior year. She was also a member of the French Club, the Psych Club, the Boosters, and the M-Day Committee and worked as an office assistant. She earned admission to the National Honor Society her senior year and also served as secretary in *Quill and Scroll*. Marylín was also part of the *Mobile Press Register* while at Murphy, serving as a teen editor and writing a regular column.

She attended the University of Georgia in 1963, and returned to Mobile after graduating to work for the *Mobile Press Register* as a reporter until 1966. She then moved to Dallas to be a city desk reporter at the *Dallas Morning News*. She worked her way into being a feature writer, covering major stories. In 1980, she became a special columnist, writing three columns a week, which she continued to do through 2002. These columns often examined Dallas life and society, especially its excesses and women, with love and humor. She stated, "When I am writing my newspaper column, I look for the small details that give the readers a clear view of the big picture." She believed that a personal touch made the columns features, not just news. This view contributed to her column becoming syndicated and her work has appeared in more than two hundred newspapers. A fellow columnist and friend, Molly Ivins, praised her sense of humor and her ability for finding "odd corners of American culture." One of those resulted in her book, *A Southern Belle Primer: Why Princess Margaret will never be a Kappa Kappa Gamma*, published in 1991 and reissued in 2006 with Paris Hilton replacing Princess Margaret in the title. The book's success led to her appearing on television with Oprah Winfrey, Joan Rivers, and Larry King. A second book was published in 1993: *New Times in the Old South: Why Scarlett's in Therapy and Tara's Going Condo*.

Ms. Schwartz received numerous honors during her career at *The News*. She won the Sweepstakes Award for excellence in reporting in 1976 from the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors Association. Marlyn also is a past winner of the William H. Seay Award, the highest employee honor of the *Dallas News*' parent company, Belo, recognizing the fundamental values of the institution.

She supported the Dallas Arts community, serving on the fundraiser committee for the Dallas Museum of Art. She was a member of Friends of the Dallas Public Library and supported the non-profit film production company Media Projects.

Ill health (diabetes, thyroid, and cancer) led to her leaving the Dallas paper in 2002. She continued to battle her diseases until her death in 2011.

We are proud to include this "Southern girl with Chutzpah" –her own words- in our Hall of Fame.